

CLAIMS

1. A disk cartridge comprising

a case body for housing a disklike information storage medium in a rotatable position, the case body including: first and second side surfaces that extend parallel to an inserting direction, in which the disk cartridge is inserted into a disk drive for recording and/or reproducing information, and are opposed to each other; a lower surface sandwiched between the first and second side surfaces; a head window, cut through a portion of the lower surface, for partially exposing the information storage medium; a shutter opening groove provided on the first side surface so as to extend in the inserting direction and to slide a shutter opener of the disk drive therein; and a holding recess provided at the bottom of the shutter opening groove;

a shutter, which has an operating portion that protrudes into the shutter opening groove and which opens or closes the head window by sliding parallel to the inserting direction; and

an elastic member for applying elastic force to the

shutter so as to close the head window.

2. The disk cartridge of claim 1, wherein the head window has been cut open through the first side surface and the lower surface so as to reach the first side surface.

3. The disk cartridge of claim 2, wherein the head window has been cut open through the first side surface so as not to interfere with the shutter opening groove or the holding recess.

4. The disk cartridge of claim 3, wherein the head window includes a side window that has been cut open through the first side surface and that is located closer to the lower surface than the shutter opening groove is.

5. The disk cartridge of one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the case body includes an upper half and a lower half, and

wherein the holding recess is defined by a rib of the lower half so as to form an integral part of the lower half.

6. The disk cartridge of one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the case body has a holding notch that has been cut through the first side surface and the lower surface and another holding notch that has been cut through the second side surface and the lower surface.

7. The disk cartridge of one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the case body includes an elastic member sliding groove, which extends parallel to the shutter opening groove to have the elastic member slide therein, and a recess located at one end of the elastic member sliding groove, the elastic member sliding groove and the recess being both provided on the first side surface, and

wherein while the head window is closed with the shutter portion, the elastic member engages with the recess, thereby keeping the shutter portion locked and fixed.

8. The disk cartridge of claim 7, wherein the shutter includes a shield, which covers the head window, and an unlocking member including the operating portion, and

wherein when the shutter opener contacts with the operating portion, the unlocking member disengages the elastic member from the recess and the shutter opener slides the shutter portion against the elastic force applied by the elastic member.

9. The disk cartridge of one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the case body includes a third side surface, which faces the disk drive when the disk cartridge is going to be inserted into the disk drive, and a fourth side surface opposed to the third side surface, and

wherein the shutter opening groove reaches the third side surface so as to form an opening on the third side surface.

10. The disk cartridge of one of claims 1 to 9, further comprising the disklike information storage medium with an information storage side, wherein the information storage medium is housed in the case body such that the information storage side is partially seen through the head window when the shutter is opened.

11. The disk cartridge of claim 10, wherein the case body further includes an upper surface that is sandwiched between the first and second side surfaces and that is opposed to the lower surface, and

wherein the holding recess is positioned at the bottom of the shutter opening groove so as to be located closer to the upper surface than the information storage side of the information storage medium is when the information storage medium has been loaded into the disk drive such that information is readily reproduced from, or recorded on, the medium.

12. The disk cartridge of claim 10, wherein the holding recess is positioned at the bottom of the shutter opening groove so as to be located in the upper part of a space between the upper and lower surfaces of the case body.

13. A disk drive comprising:

a chassis;

a motor supported on the chassis and including a

turntable;

a head, supported on the chassis, for recording and/or reproducing information;

a holder having an insertion port for inserting the disk cartridge of one of claims 1 to 12 and a space for holding the disk cartridge, the holder being rotatably secured to the chassis so as to take either a first position, at which the disk cartridge is insertable and removable through the insertion port without interfering with the turntable, or a second position, at which the information storage medium in the disk cartridge held in the space is mounted on the turntable;

a slider, which is arranged so as to slide with respect to the holder and which applies elastic force to the disk so as to eject the disk cartridge out of the holder through the insertion port; and

a gripping member, which is connected to the slider so as to get engaged with the holding recess of the disk cartridge,

wherein the gripping member is arranged on the holder so as not to interfere with the head when the holder is turned to

take the second position with no disk cartridge held.